



652984

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/10/2012	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Latvala) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4205 Disability history and awareness instruction.—

(1) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, each district school board shall ~~may~~ provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools in the district during the first 2 weeks in October each year. The district school board shall designate these 2 weeks as "Disability History and



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13 Awareness Weeks.” The Department of Education shall assist in  
14 creating the curriculum for the disability history and awareness  
15 instruction that will be used in each school district.

16 (2) (a) During this 2-week period, students shall ~~may~~ be  
17 provided intensive instruction to expand their knowledge,  
18 understanding, and awareness of individuals who have ~~with~~  
19 disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability  
20 rights movement. Disability history must ~~may~~ include the events  
21 and timelines of the development and evolution of services to,  
22 and the civil rights of, individuals who have ~~with~~ disabilities.  
23 Disability history must ~~may~~ also include the contributions of  
24 specific individuals who have ~~with~~ disabilities, including the  
25 contributions of acknowledged national leaders.

26 (b) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the  
27 instruction shall ~~may~~ be integrated into the existing school  
28 curriculum in ways including, but not limited to, supplementing  
29 lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or providing other  
30 school-related activities. The instruction shall ~~may~~ be  
31 augmented by presentations from individuals who have  
32 disabilities, who have been approved by the school or school  
33 district as presenters, and who the school or school district  
34 has ensured meet appropriate background screening requirements  
35 of s. 1012.465 to enter schools and interact with children  
36 ~~delivered by qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable~~  
37 ~~guest speakers, with a particular focus on including individuals~~  
38 ~~with disabilities.~~

39 (c)1. There is created within the Department of Education  
40 the Disability History and Awareness Advisory Council. The  
41 council shall consist of the following 15 members:



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42 a. The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

43 b. A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by  
44 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his or her  
45 designee.

46 c. A member of the Senate, appointed by the President of  
47 the Senate, or his or her designee.

48 d. Four members of the Florida Youth Council who are  
49 selected by the Department of Education.

50 e. A member from Yes! of America United, Inc., who is  
51 selected by the Department of Education.

52 f. A member of the public who is deaf/blind who is selected  
53 by the Department of Education.

54 g. A member of the public who has mental disabilities and  
55 is selected by the Department of Education.

56 h. A member of the public who has developmental  
57 disabilities and is selected by the Department of Education.

58 i. Four persons from disability groups that are not  
59 represented on the council who are selected by the Department of  
60 Education.

61 2.a. Six members of the council must be younger than 30  
62 years of age and six members of the council must be at least 30  
63 years of age or older.

64 b. The Commissioner of Education, the member of the Senate,  
65 and the member of the House of Representatives, or their  
66 designees, are ex officio, nonvoting members of the council.

67 3. The department shall provide a liaison to assist the  
68 council in its operation. The department shall act as the fiscal  
69 agent for all financial transactions required by the council.

70 4. The responsibilities of the council shall be, but are



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71 not limited to:  
72 a. Providing to the Department of Education input regarding  
73 the curriculum for disability history and awareness;  
74 b. Assisting, upon request, schools or school districts in  
75 locating individuals who have disabilities to make presentations  
76 at schools; and  
77 c. Submitting an annual report to the Governor, the  
78 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
79 Representatives, and the superintendent of each school district  
80 in this state by August 1, 2013, and each year thereafter. The  
81 annual report must include, but is not limited to,  
82 recommendations and policy alternatives regarding the state of  
83 disability awareness in this state.  
84 5. The council shall meet at least four times a year and  
85 more often as needed.  
86 (3) The goals of disability history and awareness  
87 instruction include:  
88 (a) Better treatment for individuals who have ~~with~~  
89 disabilities, especially for youth in school, and increased  
90 attention to preventing the bullying or harassment of students  
91 who have ~~with~~ disabilities.  
92 (b) Encouragement to individuals who have ~~with~~ disabilities  
93 to develop increased self-esteem, resulting in more individuals  
94 who have ~~with~~ disabilities gaining pride in being an individual  
95 with a disability, obtaining postsecondary education, entering  
96 the workforce, and contributing to their communities.  
97 (c) Reaffirmation of the local, state, and federal  
98 commitment to the full inclusion in society of, and the equal  
99 opportunity for, all individuals who have ~~with~~ disabilities.



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100 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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102 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

103 And the title is amended as follows:

104 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
105 and insert:

106 A bill to be entitled  
107 An act relating to disability awareness; amending s.  
108 1003.4205, F.S.; requiring that each district school  
109 board provide disability history and awareness  
110 instruction in all K-12 public schools; requiring that  
111 the Department of Education assist in creating the  
112 curriculum for the disability history and awareness  
113 instruction; providing for individual presenters who  
114 have disabilities to augment the disability history  
115 and awareness instruction; creating the Disability  
116 History and Awareness Advisory Council within the  
117 Department of Education; requiring that the Department  
118 of Education select the membership of the council;  
119 providing that the Commissioner of Education, the  
120 member of the Senate, and the member of the House of  
121 Representatives are ex officio, nonvoting members of  
122 the council; requiring that the department provide a  
123 liaison to assist the council; requiring that the  
124 department act as the fiscal agent for all financial  
125 transactions required by the council; providing  
126 responsibilities of the council; providing meeting  
127 times for the council; providing an effective date.